

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W  
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P R 140645Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8771

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJ: NEW FINNISH GOVERNMENT: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

REF: HELSINKI 1283

1. PRIME MINISTER KEIJO LIINAMAA'S NEW EXPERT GOVERNMENT IS STRONG ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND MOST MINISTERIAL CHOICES HAVE STRONG BACKGROUND IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AS ONE WOULD EXPECT. MILDLY SURPRISING IS THAT NINE OF SEVENTEEN MINISTERS HAVE NO PREVIOUS CABINET EXPERIENCE. ALSO, MAJORITY OF MINISTERS HAVE DEFINITE PARTY AFFILIATIONS ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE FIVE REPRESENTATIVES IN CABINET, CENTER PARTY, FOUR, LIBERALS, SWEDES AND CONSERVATIVES HAVE ONE EACH. FIVE ARE OFFICIALLY NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY PARTY, ALTHOUGH JORMA UITTO WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST-FRONT FINNISH PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE (SKDL).

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2. NEW GOVERNMENT DIFFERS FROM THE POLITICAL GOVERNMENT IT REPLACES IN THAT IT HAS TWO INTERIOR MINISTERS. THE SECOND INTERIOR MINISTER, AARNO STROMMER (CENTER PARTY), WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING POLICY. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SUGGESTED IN A RECENT TELEVISION INTERVIEW THAT SUCH A POSITION BE CREATED AND STROMMER'S APPOINTMENT IS BELIEVED TO BE AT HIS INSTIGATION. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY ONE EDUCATION MINISTER IN PLACE OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S TWO. REVIVED FROM PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS IS THE POSITION OF MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE. THE MAN APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION, PEKKA AHTIALA (NO PARTY AFFILIATION), IS AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SPECIALIST WITH A DOCTORATE FROM HARVARD.

3. IN JUNE 13 PRESS CONFERENCE PRIME MINISTER LIINAMAA STATED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAST PRACTICE FOR EXPERT GOVERNMENTS THERE WILL BE NO SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. HE SAID IT WAS THE TASK OF HIS CABINET TO HANDLE DAY TO DAY AFFAIRS UNTIL A NEW POLITICAL GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. THE MINISTERS HOPE, HE SAID, TO SERVE ONE-TENTH THE TIME OF THE SORSA GOVERNMENT OR ABOUT 100 DAYS. LIINAMAA SAID THAT PREPARATION OF THE 1976 BUDGET WOULD BE A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND THAT IT WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TASK GIVEN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICIES OF THE SORSA CABINET SEEKING TO IMPROVE FINLAND'S BALANCE OF TRADE SITUATION.

4. LIINAMAA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE MIGHT FALL WITHIN THE LIFETIME OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THE "DEMANDING TASK" OF PREPARATION.

5. FONMIN OLAVI MATTILA HELD THE SAME POSITION IN THE 1971-72 CARETAKER GOVERNMENT OF HELSINKI MAYOR TEUVO AURA. HE IS LINKED TO THE CENTER PARTY AND ONCE SERVED AS A CAREER OFFICER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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6. FULL BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL ON NEW MINISTERS WILL BE CABLED AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, FI  
**To:** STATE  
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